

# **SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL NATIONAL COUNCIL OF INDIA**

## *ANNUAL REPORT 2015-16*

Dear Vincentian Sisters and Brothers,

With profound gratitude to our Heavenly Father and with a sense of satisfaction of having carried out the responsibilities entrusted upon us, the present board is pleased to submit the Annual Report of the Society for the year ended 31.03.2016 before the Plenary session of the National Council of India, held at Bangalore together with the Audited Accounts, Auditor's Report and General Profile.

### **The Society of St Vincent de Paul**

The Society of St Vincent de Paul is an international Christian lay voluntary organization dedicated to tackling poverty and disadvantage by providing practical assistance to those in need – irrespective of ideology, faith, ethnicity, age or gender. The vision of SSVP is to be a global catholic charity organization providing aid, development and hope to the poor and the marginalized.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul was founded in 1833 to help impoverished people living in the slums of Paris, France. Blessed Frederic Ozanam, the founder of the Society was a French lawyer, author, and professor in the Sorbonne. He was 20 years old when he founded the society. Frederic Ozanam was beatified by Pope John Paul II in 1997.

The Society took the Blessed Virgin Mary and Saint Vincent de Paul as its patrons under the influence of Sister Rosalie Rendu who guided Frederic and his companions in their approach towards those in need. Sister Rosalie Rendu was beatified in November 2003 by Pope John Paul II.

The Society is an accredited UN NGO and has presence in New York, Geneva and UNESCO in Paris

## **National Council of India**

The Society was first introduced in India by the French Missionaries at Pondicherry during the Year 1852-53 as a non-aggregated Conference. The Society was officially started in India in 1863 when some conferences in Bombay were aggregated and the Bombay Particular Council was instituted. Then onwards the Society continued to grow in India. On 09.11.1953 the Superior Council of India was established and instituted with the Council General International. The Superior Council of India was renamed as National Council of India on 06.08.1973. The National Council of India has its Headquarters in Mumbai and the present President's secretariat is at Thodupuzha, Kerala with the election of Bro. Johnson Varghese as the 13<sup>th</sup> National President of India w.e.f. 28<sup>th</sup> February 2015.

The National Council of India is registered under the Income Tax Act 1961 with exemption under Sec 80G, FCRA under the ministry of Home Affairs and Societies Registration Act and Bombay Public Trust Act 1950.

### **Structure of the Society**

#### **Conferences**

The basic unit of SSVP is the Conference functioning at the Parish level. In India we have conferences exclusively for men and women. There are also mixed conferences, youth conferences as well as junior conferences in India.

In India there are 7189 conferences as on 31-03-2016 as detailed below

Types of Conferences	No. of Conferences
Youth & Junior Conferences	402
Women Conferences	1082
Men & Mixed Conferences	5705
Total No. of Conferences	7189

## Area Councils

An Area Council encompasses the Conferences in the nearby areas that are grouped together for co-ordination, interaction and unity. As on 31.03.2016 there are 669 Area Councils.

## Central Councils

Area Councils are generally grouped at Diocesan level into Central Councils. There are 84 Central Councils in India as on 31.03.2016. The Central Councils guide and coordinate the activities of the Area Councils and Conferences under its control

## Active Members

There are 66447 active Members in 7189 Conferences. We are happy to note that there is an increase of 699 in the membership of the Society.

The details are as given below:

<b>Name of Region</b>	<b>No. of Central Councils</b>	<b>No. of Area Councils</b>	<b>No. of Conferences</b>	<b>No. of Active Members</b>
Kerala	31	352	4001	34400
Tamil Nadu	20	141	1376	13752
A.P. &Telangana	09	66	658	6083
Western	11	67	686	8633
North	06	17	200	1358
North East	07	26	268	2221
<b>Total</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>669</b>	<b>7189</b>	<b>66447</b>

## The Church and SSVP

The SSVP is recognized by the Catholic Church as a Pious Lay Organization and is registered with the Catholic Bishops' Conference as a Catholic Lay Organization. The Spiritual Advisor of the National Council is appointed by the CBCI on the recommendations of the National President. The Spiritual Advisors of the Central Councils are appointed by the concerned Bishops. At the conference level the parish priest is usually the Spiritual Advisor. So the SSVP is closely

linked with the Church and the members take active role in all the activities of the Church.

## **REPORT OF THE ACTIVITIES 2015-16**

### **1. Finance Matters**

#### **a. Internal Audit**

SSVP is appreciated and admired throughout for their honesty, transparency and responsible stewardship. As its members, it is our sacred duty and responsibility to cherish and nurture this good reputation of our Society. The Internal Audit is one of the essential things in this direction. The Internal Audit helps us to retrospect ourselves and rectify where ever we have gone contrary to the society's polices and methods. Thus Internal Audit facilitates us to keep up the SPIRIT OF THE SOCIETY. I am happy to inform you that the Internal Audit team of the National Council was able complete the audit of 72 Central Councils and 4 Regional Councils. The audit team received a warm welcome from all the councils.

#### **b. Renewal of FCRA Registration**

Application for Renewal of registration under FCRA has been submitted to the Government of India on 18 .02.2016. The National Council is awaiting the renewal order from the Government.

### **2.Canonization**

There seems to be many signs of hope regarding cause for Ozanam's Canonization. At the end of 2015 the Canonization Commission has been informed of a new case of cure. A Vincentian member who had suffered from heart problem since her youth had been saying "the prayer to the Bl. Fredric" every night since 2012. One evening she asked for a special grace to avoid heart surgery as suggested by the doctors. On 26<sup>th</sup> June 2015 her cardiologists confirmed that she no longer needed any operations. The documentation work is on in this connection. Let us pray to the LORD that Bl. Fredric is recognized as a Saint not for any glory but that his message can be rediscovered for everyone.

### **3.Spirituality**

The present National Council of India has decided to give utmost importance and priority for spiritual formation of Vincentians all over the country. At the last AGM itself a spiritual formation programme was organized for all the members of the National Council. Taking into consideration the decision of the National Council to arrange such training and formation programme, more than 5000 such programmes were organized at various levels.

### **4.Aggregation and Institution**

Aggregation of a Conference and Institution of a Council by the International Confederation of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul is a formal recognition of admission to the society of St. Vincent de Paul.

During the year 2015-16 The National Council of India forwarded 101 applications for Aggregation and 21 applications for Institution. During the year, 106 Aggregations and 6 institutions were received from the International Council, including the pending ones.

The region wise breakup of Aggregations and Institutions received is given below

<b>Region</b>	<b>Conferences</b>	<b>Area Councils</b>	<b>Central Councils</b>
Andhra Pradesh	26	-	-
Kerala	38	-	-
Tamil Nadu	11	-	-
West	22	6	-
North	4	-	-
North East	5	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>-</b>

## 5.Twinning Schemes

The twinning scheme was introduced in 1960 in a spirit of sharing both spiritually and financially. Conferences and Councils in developed countries are linked with developing countries through prayers, correspondence and financial assistance. The major twinning partners of India are England & Wales, Australia, Scotland, Netherlands, USA, Canada, Italy and France. The twinning schemes help expansion of the society and also assist the improvement of the economic and social conditions of the beneficiaries.

Summarized statement of Overseas Twinning's

Sl. No	Country	2014-15	2015-16
1	England & wales	1531	1532
	Australia	1419	1415
3	Scotland	303	266
4	Netherlands	33	17
5	USA	13	13
6	Canada	8	8
7	Italy	5	5
8	France	-	2
	<b>Total</b>	<b>3312</b>	<b>3258</b>

As on 31st March 2016, total no. of conferences in India is 7189 out of which 3258 conferences have been twinned. This indicates that only 45% of conferences are twinned in India.

## 6.Internal Twinning

Internal twinning programme was started in the year 2007 by the National Council of India. This is being continued effectively at all levels. During the past decades twinning grants were received generously from foreign Vincentians. But now we find a diminishing trend in the inflow of twinning grant from outside India. The time has come for us to look for resources from within. Affluent conferences and councils in our country can help and assist weaker conferences.

At present the internal twinning programme operates in the following levels.

a. Area Council Level

b. Central Council Level

c. National Council Level

National Council is encouraging the councils at various levels to increase volume of Internal Twinning to the needy conferences.

## 7. Educational Scholarships

The National Council of India helps the education of students belonging to poor families in our country through various scholarships supported and sponsored by overseas councils. The main overseas sponsors are Australia, England & Wales, USA and Netherlands.

The following are the details of various types of scholarships offered during 2015-16.

<b>Sl. No</b>	<b>Scholarship</b>	<b>Renewals</b>	<b>New scholarships</b>	<b>Total Amounts Released</b>
1	Technical Training Scholarships	328	200	1425600
2	Higher Education Scholarships	84	100	736000
3	Vocational Training Scholarships	-	158	237000
4	Assist A Student Scholarships	-	1005	2336625
5	Vidya Jyothi Scholarships	-	1200	1200000
6	Bicentenary Scholarships	-	212	471947
	<b>Total</b>	<b>412</b>	<b>2875</b>	<b>6407172</b>

## 8. Projects

The Projects are integral part of the Twinning Scheme. The projects aim at eliminating the root cause of poverty through self help or group schemes in order to uplift the poor from their financial crisis and to restore the dignity and a sense of self respect of the poor in the society. The financial assistance for the implementation of projects are received from the respective overseas twinned Councils on the recommendations of the National Council of India.

Projects are either one time projects or revolving projects which generate income as well as employment. The Central Councils have successfully implemented many projects during the past years and there are many running projects such as AIDS Hospice, Old Age Homes, Medical Centre, Home for the differently abled etc.

During the year 2015-16, 153 projects were sanctioned.

The details are as given below

Sl. No.	Region	Projects applied	Projects sanctioned
1	Kerala	37	63(including previous ones)
2	Tamil Nadu	-	-
3	AP	27	49(including previous ones)
4	West	5	5
5	North	7	1
6	North East	2	2
	<b>Total</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>142</b>

## 9. Major projects of National Council of India

### a. Jeevan Jyothi-Home for the Physically Challenged at Baripada, Odisha

Jeevan Jyothi, a Home for the Physically Challenged Women is a prominent project of the National Council of India located at Baripada in Odisha and within the periphery of Balasore CC. At present there are 29 inmates in the house within the age group 6 to 46 years. Most



of the inmates are either physically challenged or mentally retarded. The inmates are taken care of by the DC Sisters and it is a great challenge for sisters to take care of them with the kind of impairment they have. At present Sr. Salomi is in charge of the house.

The inmates are also involved in preparation of Christmas cards and candles. The Home has a fruit and vegetable garden surrounding the building. There are a few cattle and poultry as well. The farm produce is utilized for the inmates and the excess produce is sold in the market in order to generate some income. The Christmas Cards made by the children are sent to England & Wales for sale and candles are sold during the festive seasons locally.

The home requires some very urgent repair works as part of maintenance. The roof of the building has started leaking and the roof plaster has started falling. The National Council has taken up the matter very seriously.

#### **b. Paul Memorial Computer Centre- Velankanni**

This project is the contribution of a generous person Mr. Franciono Lorena of Italy in memory of his son Mr. Paul who passed away in an early age. It was intended to train the youth in computer studies and equip them for job opportunities. This project was commissioned in 2006. Now a days, in Tamil Nadu, Computer training is given to all school children in the schools itself and Computer Training is no more required by the students outside the schools. So nobody comes for computer training these days in the Centre. Hence the Computer training programme had to be wound up. Now it has been decided to convert the centre in to a home for the aged. The Central Council of Thanjavur has agreed to take up the responsibilities to manage the Home on behalf of the National Council.

#### **c. Home for the Aged, Kuzhuthurai, Tamil Nadu**

This is a Project owned by the National Council of India started in 2008 at Sahaya Nagar. There are 11 inmates in this home. It is managed by the FC Sisters.

## 10. Other Projects

Sl.No.	Name of the Central Council	Name of the Major Projects
1	Bangalore	Our Lady of Lourdes Computer & Tailoring Centre
2	Berhampur	Lourdu Mary Health Centre
3	Bhubaneswar	Dr.A.Q.C. Van Ruiten Health Centre
4	Bombay	i.Shanti Bhavan Home for the Aged
		ii.EFANN AIDS Hospice/ Leprosy Home
5	Chandigarh	Ozanam Home for the Aged
6	Coimbatore	Ozanam Home for the Aged
7	Delhi	Ozanam Home for the Aged
8	Eluru	Ozanam Home for the Aged
9	Ernakulam	i. Vincent Nagar Housing project
		ii.Ozanam Bhavan, Home for the Aged(ladies)
		iii.Ozanam Care Centre
		iv.Anjali Home ,Home for the Aged(ladies)
10	Goa	i. 'Arc of Hope' Home for the Aged
		ii. 'Dr.AlfredAntao' Home for the Aged
11	Guwahati	Ozanam Health Centre
12	Idukki	Cancer & Palliative Centre
13	Kanjirappally	OzanamBhavan for School Children
14	Kothamangalam	Ozanam Home
15	Kottar	Ozanam Health Care Centre
16	Manathavady	OzanamBhavan Home for the Aged
17	Mangalore	Ozanam Home for the Aged
18	Palai	i.St. Mary's Home for the Destitute Poor
		ii.Bl.KunchachenMissioneryBhavan/Home for the Aged
19	Palayamkottai	i. St.Jude Tailoring Institute
		ii.Ozanam Computer Academy
20	Pune	Prem Niwas Home for the Aged
21	Quilon	Ozanam Eye Centre
22	Thanjavur	Ozanam Home for the Aged

23	Thucklay	Computer & Typewriting Centre
24	Trivandrum (L)	Ozanam Karunya Bhavan , Old Age Home
25	Udupi	Ozanam home for the Aged

## **11.Jubiloan**

The Jubiloan scheme is initiated and sponsored by The National Council of England & Wales in memory of the Great Jubilee 2000. The aim of the scheme is to make the poor and the downtrodden self sufficient and self reliant with proper income generating schemes . An amount of Rs.5000 is given to a beneficiary which he returns in easy installments from the income generated from the project which is then redistributed to the next beneficiary making the project a revolving one. Small scale activities like vending fish, running petty shops, vegetable cultivation etc. are undertaken by the beneficiaries in this scheme.

## **12. Extension and development activities**

In 2015- 2016, two Central Councils viz. Kuzhuthurai in Tamil Nadu and Sultanpet in Kerala, 26 new Area Councils and 64 new Conferences were established.

Steps are initiated to start conferences in the dioceses of Miao in Arunachal Pradesh, Aizawal in Mizoram, Rourkela in Odisha, Bhojpur & Maner in Bihar, Bhilai in Chattisgarh, Khandwa, Sagar, Satna, Bhopal and Indore in MP, Jaipur in Rajasthan, Agra in UP, Faridabad in Hariyana, Mandya in Karnataka and Port Blair in Andaman & Nicobar Islands. In some of these dioceses new conferences have been started during the report period

## **13.Adoption and Visits**

The basic work of the society is visit of the poor, sick and the needy and also distribution of relief to the deprived in their own environment. Through visits a ‘person to person relationship’ is built up in a spirit of love and friendship. No act of charity is alien to the Society. Personal involvement is the hallmark of charity practiced by the SSVP. In India there are 47,596 adopted families and our brothers

and sisters have made 29, 06,898 visits to these families. In addition to the visits to adopted families, 43, 50,730 other visits of charity are also made. These visits include visit to families, hospitals, old age homes, prisons etc.

#### **14. REACHOUT -SSVP Bulletin**

‘**Reachout**’ is the mouthpiece of the National Council of India. ‘Reachout’ is spiritual, informative, educative and formative in its content. It is spiritual by including the messages of the saints and other holy Catholics, informative by publishing the various charitable works done by the Vincentians in India; educative by enlightening the members on various endeavors run by the National Council & Central Councils through guidelines and formative by highlighting the excerpts from the Manual and holy books.

Reachout was re-launched in September 2015 with all pages in colour, as per the desire expressed by the Managing Committee at Kochi in April 2015. This entailed designing, processing and printing in colour, plus the use of Art Paper in place of rough finish Map Litho.

From 2015-2016 the annual subscription rate is Rs.75 and there will be 3 issues in a year. The design and the printing quality of Reachout have increased considerably.

#### **15.Youth**

The Society of St. Vincent De Paul has always been driven by “youthful spirit”, whose essential features are described in the Rule: “enthusiasm, adaptability and creative imagination”. Young Vincentians have various types of gatherings to meet each other. Through social networks they continue to work, discuss and pray together after these gatherings. As on 31.03.2016 there are 11, 060 Youth& Junior Members as against 11,376 as on 31.03.2015 in 402 Youth & Junior Conferences in the Society. It shows a slight decline in the number of youth in SSVP. Even then the involvement of young Vincentians in the SSVP has improved considerably over the years.

## **16. Women**

The women members of SSVP are playing an important role in realizing the objectives of SSVP. At every level in the Society the women are in the forefront in matters where the men find it difficult to handle, such as counseling and caring of widows, orphans, single mothers and victims of various types of abuse etc. Various seminars and meetings are arranged for women members at the CC and regional levels.

As on 31.03.2016 there are 20,179 Lady Members and 1082 Ladies' Conferences in the Society, an increase of 448 members and 30 conferences as compared to the previous year.

## **17.Special Activities**

The initiative of the National Council to raise funds to help the suffering people in Nepal (Earth Quake), Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh (Flood) was well received by many central councils. The Central Councils contributed Rs. 14,15,100/- for Nepal Earth Quake Relief and Rs.17,90,675 for Tamil Nadu and A.P. Disaster Relief.

## **18.Year of Mercy**

In connection with the International Year of Mercy, declared by Pope Francis (December 2015 to November 2016), some special activities like medical aid for the chronically ill are implemented.

## **19. Visits by Foreign Delegates**

a. Bro. Adreian Abel, National President of England and Wales, Bro. Stephen Hogg, Twining Officer, of Portsmouth CC, Bro. Terry Brown National Twinning Officer, England & Wales and Sr. Marie Branch Twining Officer Shrewsbury CC visited India from 16.01.2016 to 31.01.2016. They visited several CCs in India. Bro. Graham West, National President of Australia made a one-day visit on 25.02.216. He visited a housing project at Angmaly, Ernakulum CC and President's Secretariat at Thodupuzha.

## **20. VINFAM**

Vincentian family (VINFAM) is the common forum of all associations and congregations of priests, nuns and lay people who have St. Vincent De Paul as their patron Saint. Our role as a member in the Vinfam has been significant in the past years. This year also we have taken part in the activities. Annual General Meeting of the Vinfam was conducted at the retreat Centre at Berhampur on 12 and 13 of March 2016. Six delegates including the National Secretary took part in the meeting. Bro. Tomy Varghese of Ernakulum and Bro. M.C. Mathew of Ranchi were elected the secretaries of Vinfam.

## **21.Meetings**

61<sup>st</sup> Annual General Body Meeting was held on 23, 24 & 25th September 2015 at Kottayam, Kerala.

During the period, Managing Board Meetings were held at Ernakulum, Kottayam and Kochi on 18 April 2015, 25 September 2015 & 31 January 2016 respectively.

2 Managing Committee Meetings were held on 19 April 2015 at Ernakulam and 25 September 2015 at Kottayam

## **22. Remembrance**

Let us remember with profound gratitude the services rendered by all the Vincentians who were called for eternal life during the year of report. Our former National President Bro. P. G. Jacob and former National Spiritual Adviser Rev.Fr. Xavier J. Karuvallil were called to the eternal bliss during the period.

## **23. Acknowledgement**

We take this opportunity to thank our National spiritual advisor Rev. Dr. Stanislaus Kunnel in a special way for his support and guidance. We also thank all our bishops in various dioceses for encouraging and helping our members. Our gratitude to the spiritual advisors at various levels for their timely advice. We are also indebted to our benefactors, well-wishers and supporters in and around the world for their generous contributions to the Society. We express our

thankfulness to our overseas councils of England & Wales, Australia, Netherlands, Scotland, USA, Italy, Canada, and France for their generous assistance through various schemes which help us to carry on our activities in India.

Our Sincere thanks to the members of the Board, Managing Committee, General Body and various committees for their selfless support. We also thank the members of the staff at the headquarters and president's secretariat.

Let our lord Jesus through the intercession of Mother Mary, St. Vincent de Paul and Bl. Frederic Ozanam lead us to be true Vincentians in the days to come.

“May God be gracious to us and bless us and make His face shine upon us”- Psalm 67:1

“Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.” (1Corinthians 15.58)

sd/

**Bro. K.J. Francis**  
Secretary

sd/-

**Bro. Prof. Johnson Varghese**  
President